

Message Text

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43

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SAM-01

PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /048 W

----- 095572

R 301020Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2340

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 0702

D/PW FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: AMCIT CHARLES M. DEAN

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER CONCERNING DEAN/SHARMAN CASE, DATED JANUARY 30 AND DELIVERED BY THE AMBASSADOR TO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT ON SAME DAY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE-EXCELLENCY, IN MY LETTER TO YOU OF JANUARY 8, 1975, I REFERRED TO THE TRAVELS OF MESSRS. CHARLES DEAN AND NEIL SHARMAN FROM PAK KADING TO HINBOUN, WHERE THEY WERE DETAINED BY NEO LAO HAK SAT SOLDIERS AND PREVENTED FROM CONTINUING THEIR JOURNEY TO THAKHEK. I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOU THAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE EMBASSY BY A LAO CITIZEN WHO TRAVELED ON THE SAME BOAT AS DEAN AND SHARMAN BETWEEN PAK KADING AND HINBOUN ON SEPTEMBER 5 AND 6.

3. QUOTE-ACCORDING TO THE LAO CITIZEN, DEAN AND SHARMAN AND A NUMBER OF LAO PASSENGERS BOARDED A BOAT AT PAK KADING AT 1400 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 5 WITH THE INTENTION OF TRAVEL-
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ING TO THAKHEK. BEFORE DEPARTING PAK KADING, DEAN AND

SHARMAN OBTAINED TRAVEL PERMITS FROM THE VIENTIANE SIDE POLICE, WHICH DESCRIBED THE PURPOSE OF THEIR TRIP AND DESTINATION. THE BOAT LEFT THE VIENTIANE SIDE CONTROL POINT AT THE NAM KADING AND PROCEEDED TO THE NEO LAO HAK SAT CHECKPOINT ON THE OPPOSITE BANK OF THE NAM KADING. AT THAT TIME, NEO LAO HAK SAT SOLDIERS NOTICED THAT THE YOUTHS WERE CARRYING THREE CAMERAS AND DEMANDED THAT THE CAMERAS BE SURRENDERED. WHEN DEAN AND SHARMAN REFUSED TO SURRENDER THEIR CAMERAS, THE NEO LAO HAK SAT AUTHORITIES PERMITTED THE BOAT AND PASSENGERS TO CONTINUE DOWN THE MEKONG BUT ASSIGNED A GUARD TO ACCOMPANY THE TWO YOUTHS TO THE NEXT CHECKPOINT AT HINBOUN. THE GUARD HAD THE CAMERAS IN HIS POSSESSION DURING THE ENTIRE TRIP.

4. QUOTE-AT 1700 HOURS, THE BOAT STOPPED FOR THE NIGHT AT BUNG KOUANG AND THE PASSENGERS SLEPT ON BOARD. THE BOAT DEPARTED BUNG KOUANG FOR HINBOUN AT 0700 HOURS SEPTEMBER 6, 1974. ON ARRIVING AT HINBOUN AT 1000 HOURS THE SAME DAY, THE PASSENGERS DEBARKED AND SURRENDERED THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR INSPECTION TO THE NEO LAO HAK SAT GUARDS. AFTER ONE HOUR, THE PASSENGERS, EXCEPT DEAN AND SHARMAN, WERE PERMITTED TO DEPART HINBOUN AND CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY.

5. QUOTE-THE CAMERAS BELONGING TO THE TWO YOUTHS WERE RETURNED TO THEM AND THEY WERE INSTRUCTED TO GET THEIR OTHER PERSONAL BELONGINGS FROM THE BOAT BECAUSE THEY WERE GOING TO BE DETAINED. IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING HIS BELONGINGS, NEIL SHARMAN ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED ONE OF HIS CAMERAS IN THE WATER.

6. QUOTE-THE LAO CITIZEN WHO FURNISHED THE FOREGOING INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY AND UNHESITATINGLY RECOGNIZED PHOTOGRAPHS (COPIES OF WHICH I SENT TO YOUR EXCELLENCY WITH MY LETTER OF JANUARY 13) OF DEAN AND SHARMAN AND CORRECTLY ASSOCIATED EACH PHOTOGRAPH WITH THE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TWO HE HAD EARLIER PROVIDED. YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL RECALL THAT THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE GIVEN BY DEAN AND SHARMAN TO A LAO FELLOW-PRISONER WHO WAS DETAINED WITH THEM AT KHAM KEUT AND WHO LATER ESCAPED UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM DETENTION.

7. QUOTE-THE FOREGOING STATEMENT OF EVENTS THAT OCCURRED DURING THE TRAVELS OF MESSRS, DEAN AND SHARMAN AND THE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE YOUTHS BY DESCRIPTION AND PHOTOGRAPHS CLEARLY ESTABLISHES THEIR PRESENCE AND DETENTION AT HINBOUN ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1974.

8. QUOTE-I BELIEVE, EXCELLENCY, THAT THE FACTS SET FORTH ABOVE--TOGETHER WITH THE INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS FURNISHED IN AND WITH MY LETTERS OF JANUARY 8, 13 AND 20--CONSTITUTE A COMPLETE AND IRREFUTABLE RECORD. THIS INFORMATION DOCUMENTS THE DEPARTURE OF MESSRS. DEAN AND SHARMAN FROM PAK KADING ON SEPTEMBER 5; THEIR DETENTION BY NEO LAO HAK SAT SOLDIERS AND OFFICIALS THE FOLLOWING DAY; THEIR MOVEMENT TO AND IMPRISONMENT AT A NEA LAO HAK SAT PRISON FACILITY NEAR KHAM KEUT FROM MID-SEPTEMBER TO MID-DECEMBER; AND THEIR MOVEMENT FROM THE KHAM KEUT AREA TOWARD THE BORDER OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM ON DECEMBER 14.

9. QUOTE-IT IS ESTABLISHED BEYOND DOUBT THAT NEO LAO HAK SAT FORCES ARRESTED DEAN AND SHARMAN AND HAVE HELD THEM IN CUSTODY EVER SINCE. IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT IS THE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR WELL-BEING AND THE ORGANIZATION WHICH--IF IT TRULY ADHERES TO THE STANDARDS OF DECENCY AND HUMANITY WHICH IT HAS SO OFTEN PROFESSED--MUST RELEASE THEM WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

10. QUOTE-MY GOVERNMENT VIEWS THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF CHRLES DEAN AS A MATTER OF THE UTMOST CONCERN AND AS ONE WHICH COMPLICATES THE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WHICH WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN WITH THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION.

11. QUOTE-I URGE ONCE AGAIN THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY UNDERTAKE PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE ACTION TO BRING ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF BOTH MEN. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE)
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12. PLEASE PASS FOREGOING TO HOWARD DEAN.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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